

Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in Federal Register. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. It is very important that those interested in the management of this area participate at that time.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by July, 1997. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal.

**Reviewer's Obligations:** The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available for the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the final EIS.

To be most helpful, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merit of the alternatives discussed. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

**Responsible Official:** Robert L. Schrenk, Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest, 506 US Highway 2 West, Libby, MT 59923 is the Responsible Official. As the Responsible Official I will decide if the proposed project will be implemented. I will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision.

That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations.

Dated: December 5, 1996.

Robert L. Schrenk,

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 96-31915 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## Rural Utilities Service

### Municipal Interest Rates for the First Quarter of 1997

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of municipal interest rates on advances from insured electric loans for the first quarter of 1997.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the first calendar quarter of 1997.

**DATES:** These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning January 1, 1997, and ending March 31, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carolyn Dotson, Loan Funds Control Assistant, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, room 2234-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1522, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: 202-720-1928. FAX: 202-720-4120. E-mail: CDotson@rus.usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the first calendar quarter of 1997 for municipal rate electric loans. Pursuant to RUS regulations at 7 CFR 1714.4, each advance of funds on a municipal rate loan shall bear interest at a single rate for each interest rate term. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1714.5, the interest rates on these advances are based on indexes published in the "Bond buyer" for the four weeks prior to the first Friday of the last month before the beginning of the quarter.

In accordance with 7 CFR 1714.5, the interest rates are established as shown in the following table for all interest rate terms that begin at any time during the first calendar quarter of 1997.

Interest rate term ends in (year)	RUS rate (0.000 percent)
2018 .....	5.500
2017 .....	5.500
2016 .....	5.375
2015 .....	5.375
2014 .....	5.375
2013 .....	5.375

Interest rate term ends in (year)	RUS rate (0.000 percent)
2012 .....	5.375
2011 .....	5.250
2010 .....	5.250
2009 .....	5.125
2008 .....	5.000
2007 .....	4.875
2006 .....	4.875
2005 .....	4.750
2004 .....	4.625
2003 .....	4.500
2002 .....	4.500
2001 .....	4.375
2000 .....	4.250
1999 .....	4.125
1998 .....	3.875

Dated: December 10, 1996.

Wally Beyer,

*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

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## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

### Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Hawaii Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Hawaii Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 1997, at the Federal Building, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5311, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850. The purpose of the meeting is to review current civil rights developments in the State, and plan future program activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Oswald Stender, 808-523-6203, or Philip Montez, Director of the Western Regional Office, 213-894-3437 (TDD 213-894-3435). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, December 9, 1996.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

*Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.*

[FR Doc. 96-31912 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

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